

Richmond, where he helped establish the city's Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse System. In addition to his work with the city, Verdia served as an adjunct professor at Virginia Union University, where he helped develop an Urban Studies Program. He received his bachelor's degree with honors in 1970 from Alcorn State University in his native Mississippi. While attending Alcorn State, he received a Ford Foundation grant to study economics at Tulane University. He later earned a national urban fellowship to attend graduate school at the University of Illinois, where he received his Master's in Public Administration.

His tremendous work on behalf of Fairfax County and Northern Virginia have been recognized by the National Forum of Black Public Administrators, the American Society of Public Administrators, Leadership Fairfax, the Fairfax Bar Association, the Service Source Network, New Hope Housing, the Human Services Coalition of Northern Virginia and the Virginia General Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the many accomplishments of Verdia L. Haywood as he brings his distinguished career with Fairfax County to an end. He has set a high standard for public service, and I am proud to have worked with him during my time in Fairfax County. We will miss him terribly, but, thankfully, our community will continue to benefit from his work and innovation in the delivery of human services for many years to come.

THANKING THE HRUBY FAMILY
FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO
RURAL AMERICA

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 12, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, I want to take a few moments today to con-

gratulate the Hruby family—Tim, Stephanie and daughter Sophie—who recently earned the Excellence in Agriculture award.

The award is part of the Young Farmers and Ranchers program, which recognizes young farmers and ranchers who are contributing to their local communities, the agriculture industry, and our state through their involvement, leadership, and participation.

My district, like many rural areas throughout our country, faces a “brain drain” as we lose young people to more urban areas. If we are going to reverse this trend, we need more Nebraskans like the Hrubys to step up and take the lead.

Agriculture isn't an occupation. Rather, as Tim and Stephanie can tell you, it is a way of life and I thank them for their dedication to their community and our state.